

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 34-50, 52, 57-59, and 61-66 and cancel claims 51, 53-56, and 60, as follows:

1-33. (Cancelled).

34. (Currently Amended) A videoconference apparatus comprising:

An ~~an~~ electronic device for viewing images comprising:

a viewing surface, said viewing surface being substantially continuous and having a plurality of directions of frontal observation distributed continuously in an angular field of observation; and

an imaging unit for capturing panoramic images, said imaging unit and said viewing surface being mounted on a common support, the videoconference apparatus further comprising at least a network interface configured to:

transmit to a homologous videoconference apparatus the panoramic images captured by said imaging unit; and

receive from said homologous videoconference apparatus image signals to be displayed on said viewing surface.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said angular field of observation is no smaller than 180°.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said angular field of observation is substantially equal to 360°.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said viewing surface is a surface with single curvature.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said viewing surface is a surface with double curvature.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said viewing surface is a convex surface.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said viewing surface has, at least in part, cylindrical shape.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said viewing surface is substantially cylindrical.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said viewing surface comprises at least a flexible, curved viewing element.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said viewing surface comprises a plurality of viewing elements.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 43, comprising a module for processing video signals capable of being fed with an incoming video stream and capable of dividing said stream into a plurality of sub-streams, each of which is sent to one of said display elements of said plurality of sub-streams.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said viewing surface is obtained with a LED, OLED or TFT viewing structure.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, comprising a processing module associated therewith capable of being fed with a stream of video signals representing a panoramic image having an extension in the direction of the width, said processing module being capable of varying the position of representation of said panoramic image on said viewing surface with a sliding effect of said panoramic image in the direction of said width.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 34, comprising at least a loudspeaker for the reproduction of an audio signal associated with said viewing surface.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 47, comprising a plurality of loudspeakers distributed in said angular field.

49. ((Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 48, comprising a display module for driving the viewing of an image on said viewing surface and an audio reproduction module for reproducing respective audio signals through the loudspeakers of said plurality.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein said display module and said audio reproduction module are operatively connected to convey to each of the loudspeakers of said plurality a respective audio signal referred to the portion of image displayed in a portion of said viewing surface adjacent to said loudspeaker.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim-51 34, wherein said imaging unit comprises anamorphic optics.

53-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim-51 34, wherein said imaging unit and said viewing surface have a common main axis.

58. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim-51 34, wherein said imaging unit is, at least in part, located in an inner position relative to said viewing surface.

59. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim-~~51~~ 34, wherein said imaging unit is located in a distanced position relative to said viewing surface.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim-~~60~~ 34, wherein said device comprises at least an interface configured to allow communication with said homologous device by means of a communication network.

62. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said communication network is selected from the group of a wide area network, the internet and a WLAN network.

63. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said at least one interface is configured to allow a wireless communication.

64. (Currently Amended) A videoconference facility comprising at least a ~~device~~ the videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim-~~60~~ 34.

65. (Currently Amended) A videoconference network comprising at least a first and a second ~~device~~ videoconference apparatus as claimed in claim 60, capable of connecting with each other.

66. (Currently Amended) A videoconference method for viewing images, comprising the steps of:

connecting, via a network, a first videoconference apparatus with a second videoconference apparatus located at a remote site relative to said first videoconference apparatus, wherein said first and second videoconference apparatus each comprises:

a viewing surface, said viewing surface being substantially continuous and having a plurality of directions of frontal observation distributed continuously in an angular field of observation; and

an imaging unit for capturing panoramic images, said imaging unit and said viewing surface being mounted on a common support, the videoconference apparatus further comprising at least a network interface configured to:

transmit to a homologous videoconference apparatus the panoramic images captured by said imaging unit; and

receive from said homologous videoconference apparatus image signals to be displayed on said viewing surface;

generating a stream of video data representative of a panoramic image at each of said first and second videoconference apparatus;

providing a viewing device as claimed in claim 34; and

feeding said the stream of video data generated at each of said first videoconference apparatus to said the viewing device of said other videoconference apparatus, causing said panoramic image generated at each of said first and second videoconference apparatus to be displayed on said viewing surface of said device other videoconference apparatus.